

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, re-examination and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.112, and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant wishes to acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of Claims 40, 44, 46 and 52-58.

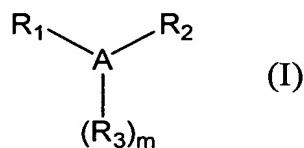
Claims 24, 25, 26, 29, 42 and 53 are amended in the present response. Claims 24, 25 and 29 have been amended in response to issues raised in the Office Action. Claim 24 has been amended to add the word "isocyanate" before the phrase reaction product and before composition. This amendment was made to keep the terminology consistent with the terminology used in the specification and, where applicable, other claims. Claim 24 was also amended to correct the typographical error of having a period at the end of step a. Claim 25 has been amended to correct the typographical error of using the word isocyanates rather than isocyanate to described the reaction product. Claim 26 has been amended to recite that at least one of R1, R2 and R3 comprises a true isocyanate function or a derived isocyanate function, where the derived isocyanate function is a masked isocyanate. Support for this amendment is found in the specification on page 6, lines 11-22. Claim 26 has also been amended to add the word "and" before the definition of the last symbol to place the claim in proper claim language. Claim 29 has been amended to replace "products" with "product(s)" to have proper antecedant basis from Claim 24 and 25. Support for this amendment is found within Claim 25 where the first step involves preparing a tricondensate polyfunctional isocyanate reaction product or a mixture of different tricondensate polyfunctional isocyanate reaction products. Claim 42 has been amended to correct typographical errors by deleting incorrectly used commas. Claim 53 has been amended to improve the readability of the

claim by separating the requirement that G is greater than 0.3 from the formula defining G, which is listed above the phrase "greater than 0.3". Claim 53 was also amended to clarify that G is greater than 0.3 by adding the phrase "where G is" before "greater than 0.3". No new matter was added in these amendments.

Claims 24-42, 44, 46 and 52-58 remain pending in this application.

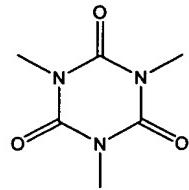
Claims 24-39, 41 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner has taken the position that the structural requirements of Claim 26 do not mandate the presence of any functional groups, since no R groups are required to contain active or functional isocyanate groups. (page 2 of the Office Action). Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

In response to the position asserted by the Examiner in paragraph (2) of the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 26 requires that the tricondensate polyfunctional isocyanate reaction product comprise a true isocyanate function or a derived isocyanate function, where the derived isocyanate function is a masked isocyanate. Claim 26 defines a tricondensate polyfunctional isocyanate reaction product as having the general formula:

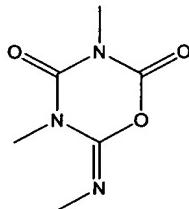


in which A represents:

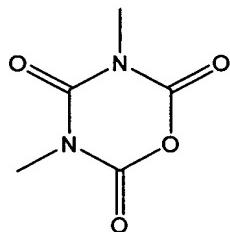
- an isocyanurate group of formula:



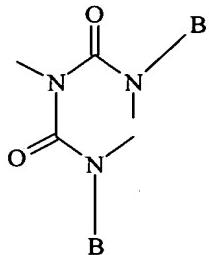
- an imino-oxadiazine-dione of the following formula:



- an oxadiazine-trione of the following formula:

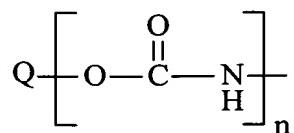


- a biuret group of formula



B being H or a C₁₋₂₀ group containing optionally, other atoms; or

- a group of formula:



in which R₁, R₂ and R₃ comprise a true isocyanate function or a derived isocyanate function, said derived isocyanate function being a masked isocyanate.

Therefore the composition of the "tricondensate polyfunctional isocyanate reaction product" is clearly defined and distinctly claimed such that one of ordinary skill in the art would readily comprehend the scope of the claims. As a result of this amendment to Claim 26, it is clear how to interpret the term tricondensate polyfunctional isocyanate reaction product(s) within Claims 24, 25, 26 and 29 and the Examiner's objection to this issue should be withdrawn.

The Examiner indicated that within Claims 25 and 29 the language was ambiguous in view of the use of the plural "isocyanates" language and because there was a lack of antecedent basis from claim 24. Claims 25 and 29 have been amended to recite "isocyanate" rather than "isocyanates". The amended language removes any ambiguity and has antecedent basis in claim 24, which recites "a tricondensate polyfunctional isocyanate reaction products".

The Examiner indicated that the language "tricondensate polyfunctional isocyanate reaction product" in Claim 26 lacks antecedent basis from Claim 24. Amended Claim 24 contains "tricondensate polyfunctional isocyanate reaction product". Therefore Claim 26 has antecedent basis from claim 24.

In view of the above, the §112, second paragraph rejection has been obviated and should be withdrawn.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (703) 838-6587 at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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